

College/Technical School Visits

Despite all the research you might do on various colleges or technical schools, visiting the campus will probably have a greater impact on your final decision. Counselors and college admission representatives agree that, except where a visit is impossible, **no student should select a school without seeing the campus first.**

Many schools offer Open House days. Typically held on Saturdays, these provide structured tours of the campus and allow prospective students to ask the tour guides many questions. Students can also arrange to visit colleges or technical schools on their own. These visits typically occur in the spring and summer prior to the senior year of high school. If visiting on a school day, students must complete an **Excusal from Attendance form**, which can be obtained in the main office.

Make the Most of a College/Technical School Visit

Check in with the Admissions Office. Even if your visit is unofficial, let them know you are there. Have an open mind while visiting...avoid forming opinions before you arrive. Evaluate a school for yourself. What do you want to know about the school? Use the questions below or prepare a list of your own to ask during the visit. If taking a guided tour, spend time afterwards walking around campus and/or the surrounding town on your own.

Don't let any one thing (weather, student guide, admissions representative, staff member, etc.) affect your decision. Have lunch in the cafeteria or student union building. Involve yourself with as many students as you can. Observe how the students are interacting with each other. Finally...

- Have a realistic outlook, be yourself, and enjoy the process
- Keep track of names and information from each college you visit
- Look for the right "fit" for you

Possible Questions to Ask on Your Visit:

- What is the typical class size (not average class size), or what percentage of classes have fewer than 25 students?
- What is the admissions profile? What kind of student is accepted? What is the school looking for in an applicant?
- What percentage of students graduate within four years?
- What percentage of freshmen return for the sophomore year?
- What kind of academic options are available (i.e. double majors, changing majors, internships, taking courses outside your major, etc.)
- How does the school provide for the safety of students?
- What are the options for housing and is housing guaranteed for four years?
- What kinds of support services are available?
- Are medical facilities available on campus?
- What kinds of extracurricular or volunteer activities are available?
- Are there study abroad opportunities?
- Who teaches the classes (professors, adjunct faculty, or graduate assistants)? How accessible is the faculty?
- What do students like and dislike about the school?
- Does the college offer job placement services for graduating seniors or internship placement for underclassmen?
- What kinds of meal plans are available?